OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Casper

DATE: 12/4/63

FROM : H. L. Sloan

SUBJECT: MELVIN N. JOHNSON, JR.
JOHNSON GUNS, INC.
NEW HAVEN 10, CONNECTICUT
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

I received a telephone call last night from Melvin N. Johnson, President, Johnson Guns, Inc., 152 Tempo Street, New Haven 10, Connecticut, (telephone 865-4517) regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

I have known Johnson for several years as a firearms designer and inventor of the Johnson Machine Gun and Johnson Autoloading Rifle and as a consultant with Winchester Arms Company of New Haven, Connecticut. He is a retired Colonel, U. S. Army Reserve - Ordnance, an officer with the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1931 - 1949, and is also a consultant on weapons, Office of the Secretary of Defense since 1951. He is a controversial figure in the ordnance field but recognized as a ballistics and firearms authority.

Johnson advised he has been in touch with the editors of Life Magazine regarding the pictures in the November 29 issue, and based on these pictures and considering the reported speed of the automobile in relation to the people and tree in the background and the appeared times the President was struck, that he believes no more than one second could have elapsed between the first and second shot which is impossible with the bolt-action rifle reportedly used by Oswald. Johnson stated that when he finished talking with the editors of the magazine, even they were confused. He stated that he is convinced that more than one rifle was used in the assassination and that the empty cartridge cases and gun were "planted" in the building. He advised he feels so strongly in this regard that he has communicated with Chief Justice Earl Warren to give him the benefit of his, Johnson's, observations.

I told Mr. Johnson I have not seen the movie or any of the evidence submitted to the FBI Laboratory, but he could be assured that any conclusions reached by our Laboratory examiners would be accurate and would be based on actual tests and examinations.

1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan

HLS:jms
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Section 26

Memorandum H. L. Sloan to Mr. Casper
Re: MELVIN N. JOHNSON, JR.
JOHNSON GUNS, INC.
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The writer immediately contacted Mr. Conrad of the Laboratory Division and advised him of the observation received from Mr. Johnson.

ACTION:

None. . . For information and to record the telephone call received from Mr. Johnson.